

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH July 20, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Maia-Cicero, Vice-Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Mary Walsh, (arrived at 6:30 p.m.); Valerie Zuercher; and Robert Bollengier. Member Mark Rafanelli was absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar and Director of Administration Robert V. Ross were present. Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar was absent.

ORDER – Chairperson DeSack called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Vice Chair Cicero read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum – Community member Ted Borges addressed the School Committee on behalf of EWG Youth Soccer Association, (EWGYSA). He put forth a proposal in an effort to save the junior high school soccer program, to run a program at no cost to the district. Mr. Borges said that EWGYSA would be responsible for hiring a coach and would pay the coaching stipend through a user fee payment. He presented details surrounding financial aid, transportation, and

parental involvement. Mr. Borges said the association believes the youth soccer program provides a valuable opportunity to students before the senior high school level. In closing, Mr. Borges said the association is open to discussion as this is an initial proposal. Chair DeSack advised that this item would be added to the August 10 School Committee meeting agenda for discussion. She further advised that various details would need to be clarified with legal counsel. Initially, Chair DeSack requested the Superintendent meet with Mr. Borges and legal counsel to get clarifying questions answered for the School Committee. However, senior high school Principal Brian Butler volunteered to take the lead on this matter. The committee agreed. Member Bollengier expressed that he has a number of clarifying questions, which he will submit to Principal Butler and copy to Superintendent Geismar.

Presentation – Meet Metcalf School Principal Finalist – Superintendent Geismar introduced Mary Lou Almonte to the School Committee and said out of almost thirty candidates, Ms. Almonte was chosen by the selection committee as Metcalf School's new principal.

Ms. Almonte most recently was principal at Wakefield Elementary School in West Warwick. Dr. Geismar said the search committee is thrilled to present Ms. Almonte to the School Committee. Ms. Almonte said that she is very excited about the opportunity of coming to EWG and she disseminated a list itemizing the work she has done in Westerly and West Warwick Schools. On behalf of the School Committee, Chair DeSack welcomed Ms. Almonte to the district.

Metcalf A.Y.P. – Update - Continued – Superintendent Geismar reported that although scores were up at Metcalf School this year, one out of seventeen subgroups was not achieved. As a result of that, the district will need to send a letter to parents indicating

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH July 20, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 2

efforts that will be put in place to improve.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA- Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Member Bollengier made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Vice Chair Cicero seconded the motion. Voted 5 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of June 22, 2010; Special Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2010

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments - (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Mary Lou Almonte as 1.0 FTE Metcalf Elementary School Principal, Salary \$98,573 effective on or about August 1, 2010, contingent upon receipt of a non-disqualifying Criminal Background

Check

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. See Attached Additional List – July 20, 2010

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$31,277.68; Accruals in the amount of \$139,601.65

D. Home School Approvals

1. FRIEL – Matthew and Jamie

2. NEGRI – Rachel, Alexander, and Olivia

3. JODOIN – Jakob and Libby

4. KHAN – Sehrish and Emaz

5. BURGESS – Patrick, Morgan, and Tae

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) June 21, 2010 Letter of Congratulations to Regina Kilday from Commissioner Gist for being chosen as a state level finalist in the 2010-Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Training, (PAEMST) Program; (2) 2009 – 2010 National Honor Society Newsletter

Budget Update – 2010 - 2011 – None

Monthly Status Reports – Superintendent

Business

Special Education – Member Bollengier advised that he would contact Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar concerning a question he has regarding the Special Education Status Report.

Maintenance

Technology

NEW BUSINESS – Jr. High School Principal Search Update – Superintendent Geismar reported that the junior high school principal search committee met and selected candidates to interview. Second interviews will be held on July 23. Dr. Geismar asked Chair DeSack to consider scheduling a Special Meeting on August 3 at 7:00 a.m. to appoint the new junior high school principal. Chair DeSack suggested contacting members first to check their availability. She voiced her opinion that it is not a friendly way to welcome a new principal since the entire School Committee may not be present. Chair DeSack recommended requesting that the finalist attend the August 10 meeting as well to meet the entire committee and to have it appropriately recorded.

Appoint a New England Collaboration for High Performance Schools, (NE-CHPS) Advisory Design Committee – Chair DeSack reminded members this item was discussed at the last regular meeting, the design committee pertains to construction, and the School Committee must appoint members to the High Performance Advisory Design Committee.

Consensus of the committee was that the design committee makeup shall be as follows:

Two School Committee Members - One from each town

Two Administrators - Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley

Director of Administration Robert Ross

Two Town Council Members - One from each town

Two Community Members - One from each town – [having specific expertise in construction/building]

Member Walsh arrived at this time, (6:30 p.m.).

Member Bollengier nominated community member Jim Woloochojian from West Greenwich. School Committee Member Zuercher volunteered to serve representing Exeter. Vice Chair Cicero nominated Member Bollengier to represent West Greenwich. It was noted that these School Committee representative seats would be reassigned following the November general election.

Drug Sniffing Dogs – Discussion – Superintendent Geismar reported that Principal Butler has done a lot of research on the matter of developing a process to use drug-sniffing dogs on occasion at the Jr. – Sr. High School. Principal Butler disseminated a draft proposed document entitled Search/Seizure/Interrogation. He explained this document is an addendum to the district’s current procedure manual policy. The difference will be that in the event that a student is found in possession of contraband and/or a student is found to be impaired, the police will be called. Additionally, language has been added, [paragraph five] regarding the schools right to bring police trained dogs into the building at any time, with or without formal notice. Principal Butler and Dr. Geismar answered members’ clarifying questions. Principal Butler assured the School Committee that on no occasion would a police dog come in direct contact with a student. Chair DeSack emphasized that the policy must outline disciplines/consequences/penalties categorized by types of drugs and quantities of drugs. Principal Butler confirmed that this policy would be in the student handbook along with a parent/student signature sheet. The policy subcommittee will review the policy and it will be brought for review to the next regular meeting agenda.

Trimesters at the Jr. High School – Superintendent Geismar explained how trimesters will allow for a more efficient use of specialists and explained how trimesters would affect the specials rotation.

Member Bollengier left meeting at this time, 6:48 p.m.

Dr. Geismar gave a brief overview of the rotation scheduled for grades 7 and 8. He reported that parents would be able to access grades through I-Parent. Basically, the only change will be when reports go to parents. Parents will be notified prior to the start of the new school year about the change.

Jr. High School Math Textbook Review/Adoption – Math Department Chairperson Karen Purtill gave a PowerPoint Presentation outlining Big Ideas Math Designed Around the Focal Points.

Member Bollengier returned to the meeting at this time, 6:52 p.m.

Mrs. Purtill presented an overview of the proposed math program and showed a layout of each textbook chapter. Mrs. Purtill explained that this program connects with Everyday Math program that is taught at the elementary level and it flows into the high school level. It is also consistent with the GLE's and GLC's. Member Bollengier requested to take a copy of the book home for review. Chair DeSack agreed however, asked if the committee wished to vote on this matter tonight.

Member Zuercher made a motion to approve the purchase of new math textbook for the junior high school. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

The Greene School Enrollment – Dr. Geismar reported that The Greene School is a charter school that will house students in grades 9 and 10. The Greene School will open in the fall, picking up sixteen EWG students at a cost of approximately \$165,000. Dr. Geismar and Mr. Ross answered members' questions regarding academic standards and tuition.

403 (b) Retirement Plan Approval – Director of Administration Robert Ross explained that the 403 (b) Retirement Plan document has been revised. New language regarding Hardship Withdrawal is the only change to the document. As the document has been revised, it needs to be signed by the secretary of the School Committee. Clerk Coutcher signed the revised document.

Principal Butler requested to revert to agenda item, The Green School Enrollment. He said that he would like to contact the Office of High

School Reform at RIDE to inquire if the issue that language is nonexistent pertaining to charter schools failing to meet A.Y.P. for consecutive years has ever been raised. Chair DeSack told Principal Butler that he has the School Committee's support and does not need permission to investigate the matter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies Review/Adoption - #8708: Suicide Awareness – 2nd Reading – Member Zuercher asked clarifying questions and made recommendations for revisions to policy 8708.

Recommendations:

- Section VII. Paragraph 1 – change “in-school risk assessment” to read, “written in-school risk assessment”**
- Section VII. Paragraph 2 – change “support team to conduct the assessment to read, “mental health professional will conduct the assessment”**
- Section X. Paragraph 1 – change “the principal shall inform the parent that...” to read, “the principal or designee shall notify the parent that...”**

The recommended changes will be brought to the policy subcommittee. This item will continue to the next regular meeting agenda for adoption.

Sr. Project Steering Committee – Dr. Geismar advised that there is nothing new to report regarding the Sr. Project Steering Committee at this time.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH July 20, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 6

Transportation Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross gave a brief final review of the 2009/10 non-public transportation costs. He reported that the actual state- run transportation costs ran slightly below the budgeted amount.

Capital Project Update – Dr. Geismar reported on two important issues with the capital project.

- 1. The district has received an extension until July 30 to submit the required paperwork for reimbursement.**
- 2. The Metcalf School water system designs are still awaiting approval from the Rhode Island Department of Health.**

Chair DeSack left the meeting at this time, 7:19 p.m.

Reports/Comments – None

Important Dates and Meetings – Tuesday, August 10, 2010-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, August 24, 2010-School Committee Meeting; Friday, August 27, 2010-New Staff Training; Monday, August 30, 2010-Teacher Orientation; Tuesday, August 31, 2010-First Day of

School K – 12

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Member Walsh moved to go into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a) (1) – Personnel. Member Bollengier seconded the motion. Voted 5 - 0 in favor.

Chair DeSack returned to the meeting at this time, (7:21 p.m.).

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 7:21p.m.

Member Walsh moved to reconvene to Open Session. Member Bollengier seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 7:35 p.m.

A vote was taken during Executive Session to appoint Christopher Anthony to a 3-year position as Assistant Principal at the Jr. – Sr. High School. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Adjournment - Member Bollengier moved to adjourn. Member Zuercher seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK